

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 136042

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, PEPR, JO

SUBJECT: WEST BANK POLITICAL DYNAMICS

1. DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES ARE CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING A SERIES OF STUDIES OF SUBJECTS BECOMING INCREASINGLY GERMANE TO THE PEACE PROCESS. ONE SUCH STUDY CONCERNS "WEST BANK POLITICAL DYNAMICS", AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT BEFORE PUTTING ANYTHING INTO FINAL FORM.

2. OUR STUDY, AND YOUR INPUT, SHOULD IN GENERAL TERMS HELP US TO DEAL WITH THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: IF THE WEST BANK WERE GRANTED AUTONOMOUS STATUS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHAT TYPE OF INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP WOULD EMERGE AT BOTH THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 136042

REGIONAL AND THE LOCAL LEVELS, AND HOW WOULD DECISIONS BE MADE AT EACH LEVEL?

3. YOU SHOULD FEEL FREE TO ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS WHICH YOU BELIEVE ARE RELEVANT TO THIS GENERAL ISSUE. THE FOLLOWING, HOWEVER, ARE THE TYPES OF QUESTIONS WE ARE PLANNING TO ADDRESS, AND YOUR THOUGHTS ON THEM WOULD BE ESPECIALLY

WELCOME:

-- WHAT ARE THE CURRENT BASES OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY, AND HOW MIGHT THEY CHANGE IF THE WEST BANK WERE AUTONOMOUS?

-- ARE THERE ANY CURRENTLY IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXERT WEST BANK-WIDE LEADERSHIP?

-- HOW ARE, AND WILL, POLITICAL DYNAMICS BE AFFECTED BY FORCES OUTSIDE THE WEST BANK, PARTICULARLY THE PLO, JORDAN AND SYRIA?

-- WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE TERMS OF AN AGREEMENT GOVERNING A TRANSITION PERIOD AND THE WILLINGNESS OF WEST BANK LEADERS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER IT?

-- TO WHAT DEGREE WILL WEST BANK LEADERS BE INFLUENCED IN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE BY THE ATTITUDES OF OTHER ARAB LEADERS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE PLO?

-- WHAT IS THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONALITIES VERSUS ISSUES AT PRESENT, AND HOW MIGHT THAT CHANGE IF GRANTED AUTONOMY?

-- HOW HAVE THE NEW MUNICIPAL LEADERS ELECTED IN 1976
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 136042

ACTED DIFFERENTLY FROM THEIR PREDECESSORS, AND IS IT POSSIBLE TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT A "GENERATION GAP" AMONG WEST BANK POLITICIANS?

-- TO WHAT DEGREE WILL MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL VILLAGES REMAIN THE FOCUS OF POLITICAL LIFE IN THE CONTEXT OF AUTONOMY? WHAT DOES THIS IMPLY FOR ANY EFFORT TO HOLD WEST BANK-WIDE ELECTIONS AS A FIRST STEP TO SELF-GOVERNMENT?

-- WHAT IS THE POLITICAL ROLE OF UNOFFICIAL GROUPS SUCH AS PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, AND WHAT ROLE MIGHT THEY PLAY IN THE FUTURE?

-- WHAT IMPACT DOES GAZA AND ITS PROBLEMS HAVE ON WEST BANK POLITICAL LIFE? WOULD IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHETHER THE WEST BANK IS OR IS NOT LINKED TO GAZA, AT LEAST DURING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD?

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE BY JUNE 2 AND WOULD OBVIOUSLY WELCOME ANY ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS THEREAFTER AS YOU SEE FIT.

5. FOR TEL AVIV: IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO US IF YOU
WOULD ADDRESS THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, MUTATIS MUTANDIS, AS

REGARDS GAZA AND HAVE SOMETHING FOR US ALSO BY JUNE 2.
WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS YOU MIGHT WISH TO MAKE ABOUT
WEST BANK QUESTIONS AS WELL.

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